

Kia ora koutou,

Through some kind of mystery of time and space, it's the end of the year and school finishes next week! The Board would like to say a huge thanks to all the staff for their time and energy, for inspiring our tamariki, and generally being awesome.

A special thanks to Jasmine Pritchard who is leaving our school this year after thirty years of service. We thank you for everything you have given our school and community, and we wish you the very best for the next chapter in your life. We also say farewell to Emma, Jo, Mel, Warwick and Ashleigh. We wish you all the best for the future and thank you for your time in our kura.

The Board is continuing with property developments and the new retaining wall will be built over the summer break. Look out for a new wall next year! It will probably look a bit like the old one. The renovation of the library area, and roofing on the junior block is scheduled for later next year.

The school is currently in a sound financial position and the Board has approved the budget for 2022. Thanks to Georgie Ferrari for overseeing this.

School policies are regularly reviewed by the Board and this term we reviewed the Harassment Complaints Procedure, and The Maori Educational Success. The policies can be viewed on the school website.

Board Member Kelly Smith, has resigned from the Board this term. We'd like to thank Kelly for the enthusiasm and wisdom she has given to the Board this year. We are sorry to see you go! As a result, this means the school will hold a by-election at the beginning of next year to fill her position. If you're interested in being on the Board, we would love to hear from you. We will begin the election process in term one next year.

Lastly a special thanks to the Home and School team for organising the amazing 'Not Fair'! It was a great success and created a wonderful opportunity for the school community to connect. It is a reminder of what a great community we have. Hopefully next year we will have even more opportunities to come together.

Because the Fair was a smaller event this year we were unable to raise as much as we have in 'uncovid' years. The fair often brings in over thirty thousand dollars, and this year we raised closer to five. This is still an amazing achievement, as many schools in Wellington didn't manage to have fairs at all. While thinking about the challenges of the year, the Board came up with the idea to ask our community to consider making a one off donation to supplement the fundraising efforts. If you would like to donate something to the school, any amount, it would be greatly appreciated this year, and will help maintain the financial stability of the school going forward. This is completely voluntary! There is absolutely no obligation!

Donations can be made to:

Houghton Valley School Board of Trustees
ASB 12-3481-0045763-00

Lastly, lastly, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe summer holiday!

Nga mihi nui,

Bret McKenzie Presiding Member

Board of Trustees, Houghton Valley School